

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 14942 260340Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 /076 W
-----121637 261123Z /10
R 260303Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5083

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, TH
SUBJ: NARC ORDER 22 DETAINEES

1. IN LIGHT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S APPEAL TO THE RTG (REPORTED IN PRESS) TO RELEASE WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS ONE THOUSAND POLITICAL PRISONERS, EMBASSY REQUESTED UPDATE OF NARC ORDER 22 DETAINEES FROM THAI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. AS OF MAY 10, 1978, THE NUMBER OF DETAINEES OFFICIALLY CHARGED WITH OFFENSES UNDER ORDER 22 STOOD AT 613. OF THAT NUMBER, A TOTAL OF 5 PERSONS WERE BEING HELD UNDER PROVISIONS 5 AND 6 OF THE ORDER (TWO OF THE THREE PROVISIONS OF ORDER 22 WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL). PROVISION 5 AUTHORIZES DETENTION OF PERSONS WHO "INSTIGATE UNREST", AND PROVISION 6 AUTHORIZES DETENTION OF PERSONS WHO "ADVOCATE A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OTHER THAN A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY". THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE A BREAKDOWN OF THOSE DETAINEES HELD UNDER PROVISION 9 (RELATING TO LABOR STRIKES), BECAUSE IT DOES NOT VIEW STRIKING AS A POLITICAL ACT. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT RTG IS PRESENTLY EMPLOYING ORDER 22 AGAINST LABOR LEADERS OR ACTIVISTS.

2. COMMENT: WITH THE NUMBER OF NARC ORDER 22 DE-
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TAINEES TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY 600, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS EVOKING ORDER 22 WITH ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS FREQUENCY THAN DID THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IT DOES APPEAR THAT BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY TO BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC CRITICISM THE RTG HAS LARGELY AVOIDED CHARGING DETAINEES WITH POLITICAL OFFENSES.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
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Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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